

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 SY-05

SCCT-01 USSS-00 OPR-02 COME-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CNAAS:BH

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CNAAS

S/PRS:MR.BREWER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 214414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: ASSASSINATION OF AMERICANS

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED TODAY ON MURDER
OF AMERICANS IN TEHRAN:

2. Q. HAVE YOU ANY REACTION OR COMMENT CONCERNING THE
MURDER OF THREE AMERICAN CIVILIANS EARLIER TODAY IN TEHRAN?

A. WE ARE SHOCKED, OUTRAGED AND SADDENED BY THIS BRUTAL
AND SENSELESS ACT OF MURDER. WE EXPRESS DEEPEST SYMPATHY
TO THE FAMILIES.

3. Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT
ABOUT IT?

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A. THE SHAH HAS EXPRESSED HIS DEEPEST REGRETS OVER THE

MURDER. WE ARE OF COURSE IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ABOUT IT, AND THEY HAVE TOLD US EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO BRING THE MURDERERS TO JUSTICE.

4. Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THE NAMES OF THOSE MURDERED?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, WHICH WAS THE EMPLOYER OF THE THREE MEN, HAS RELEASED THEIR NAMES. WE HAVE THEM AS DONALD G. SMITH, WILLIAM C. COTTRELL AND ROBERT R. KRONGARD. I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER DETAILS (HOME TOWNS, AGES, ETC.) AND SUGGEST YOU CONTACT ROCKWELL.

5. Q. WHO WERE THEY AND WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN TEHRAN?

A. THE THREE MEN WERE WORKING ON AN ELECTRONICS RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THE IMPERIAL IRANIAN AIR FORCE UNDER CONTRACT WITH ROCKWELL. THEY WERE BEING DRIVEN TO WORK AT DOSHAN TAPPEH AIR BASE WHEN THE MURDERS TOOK PLACE. THEY WERE AMERICAN CIVILIANS.

6. Q. WHAT TIME DID THE ATTACK TAKE PLACE?

A. IT TOOK PLACE AT 6:50 A.M. TEHRAN TIME AUGUST 28 (10:20 P.M. AUGUST 27 EDT) IN TEHRAN. THE CAR IN WHICH THE THREE AMERICANS WERE RIDING WAS BLOCKED FRONT AND BACK IN A SIDE STREET BY TWO VEHICLES, ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE, AND FOUR MEN THEN APPROACHED THEIR CAR ON FOOT AND BEGAN FIRING INTO THE CAR.

7. Q. HOW WAS THE SHAH'S EXPRESSION OF REGRET CONVEYED?

A. BY MINISTER OF COURT ALAM THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN, RICHARD HELMS.

8. Q. IS THAT UNUSUAL?

A. THE MINISTER OF COURT IS THE PRIMARY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND THE EMBASSY.

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